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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/113 W
----------034253 020741Z /11
R 011622Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5170
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, CG, SG
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SENEGAL -
JULY 26-30, 1978

1. AMID MUCH POMP AND EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE, THE ZAIRIAN FIRST COMMISSIONER (PRIME MINISTER) MPINGA KASENDA ENDED A 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO DAKAR ON SUNDAY, JULY 30TH. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT AS ANNOUNCED WAS TO "REVITALIZE THE COOPERATION" BETWEEN GOS AND GOZ AND TO EXPLORE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

2. MR. KASENDA MET WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS AND WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR AT A STATE DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF. IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY, PRESIDENT SENGHOR PRESENTED HIM WITH THE GRAND CROIX DE L'ORDRE DE MERITE. KASENDA VISITED SEVERAL LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS (SICAP, OHLM), AND TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.
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3. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED JULY 28 HIGHLIGHTED COMMON INTERESTS IN FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE OAU, THE DANGERS OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS, SOLIDARITY WITH NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, AND THE IMMEDIATE NEED TO ESTABLISH A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, A NEW BI-LATERAL COMMISSION FOR CO-OPERATION WAS CREATED IN

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ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1969 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. THIS COMMISSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVERAL AGREEMENTS FORMULATED IN 1969-71 BUT NEVER SIGNED, INCLUDING CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS. (NO MENTION WAS MADE OF WHY THE AGREEMENTS HAD NEVER BEEN RATIFIED, BUT 1971 IS WHEN ZAIRE EXPELLED A LARGE NUMBER OF SENEGALESE.)

4. IN TOASTS AT THE RECEPTION KASENDA COVERED ALL FACETS OF THE GOS-GOZ RELATIONSHIP WHILE PM DIOUF CONCENTRATED ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS. HE SAID, "AFRICAN SECURITY MUST BE PLACED ABOVE ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, SINCE IT IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE HAPPINESS OF OUR PEOPLE...IN AIDING ZAIRE TO DEFEND HER INDEPENDENCE, WE ARE ALSO DEFENDING OUR OWN."

5. COMMENT: THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO GIVE CONCRETE FORM TO THE CURRENT RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE WARM, ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION ACCORDED MR. KASENDA IS EVIDENCE THAT THE GOS CONSIDERS ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE TO BE IMPORTANT, BOTH FOR REASONS OF SECURITY AND SOLIDARITY. DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS ALSO PLAYED A ROLE. THE SENEGALESE PRESS HAS JUST RUN A SERIES OF DETAILED ARTICLES ON ITS 600-MAN BATTALLION IN SHABA AND THE IMPORTANT PEACEKEEPING AND STABILIZING FUNCTION SENEGALESE FORCES HAVE ASSUMED IN ZAIRE. KASENDA'S VISIT AND THE ATTENTION ACCORDED TO IT FURTHER INCREASES THE PLAUSIBILITY
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FOR SENEGALESE HELP TO ITS IMPORTANT CENTRAL AFRICAN NEIGHBOR.
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